

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 044840

11

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

66660

DRAFTED BY: S/ S- O: JCRAIG

APPROVED BY: S/ S- O: JMEALUM

----- 023335

P 110418 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 044840

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDISABABA ASMARA JERUSALEM
JIDDA TELAVIV AMMAN ROME USUNNY MOGADISCIO MARCH 10,
FROM SANAA REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

S E C R E T SANAA 374

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, YE, ET, IS

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ZUQAR ISLAND

RDF: ADDIS ABABA 2650 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING DEPUTY PRIMIN/ FONMIN NU' MAN,
ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR FITAWRARI SIRAGE CALLED ON
HIM MARCH 9 TO CONVEY IEG' S UNQUALIFIED ASSURANCE
THAT NO ISRAELI INSTALLATION EXISTS ON ZUQR ISLAND.
THEREFORE, YARG RECONNAISSANCE OF THIS ETHIOPIAN
ISLAND WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY. NU' MAN REPLIED THAT
IT REMAINS YARG' S INTENTION SATISFY ITSELF THAT THERE
NO ISRAELI PRESENCE ON ISLAND. HE CONTESTED IEG' S

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 044840

POSITION THAT ZUQAR IS ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY, POINTED OUT PROXIMITY TO YEMENI SHORE, HISTORICAL LINKS OF ZUQAR WITH YEMEN, ETC. HE SAID IT RIDICULOUS FOR TWO STATES WITH SUCH IDENTITY OF INTERESTS AS ETHIOPIA AND YEMEN ALLOW UNRESOLVED STATUS OF A HANDFUL OF ESSENTIALLY UNINHABITED ISLANDS DISTURB THEIR RELATIONSHIP. IT HIGH TIME FOR IEG AND YARG BEGIN FRIENDLY, QUIET NEGOTIATION TO RESOLVE QUESTIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY ONCE AND FOR ALL. THIS WAS SPIRIT OF YARG' S APPROACH TO PROBLEM.

2. CONFIDENTIALLY, FONMIN ASSURES US YARG INTENDS HOLD UP ITS SIDE OF ARGUMENT ON QUESTION OF ZUQAR SOVEREIGNTY IN AMICABLE DISCUSSION WITH IEG, BUT HAS NO INTENTION OF CREATING ANY SORT OF INCIDENT. YARG RECONNAISSANCE OF ZUQAR, OF WHICH FONMIN HAD SPOKEN TO US EARLIER (SANAA 343), LIKELY CONSIST OF SAIL PAST ISLAND BY FISHING VESSEL TO SEE IF THERE ANY SIGN OF UNUSUAL ACTIVITY.

3. COMMENT: OBJECT OF THIS EXERCISE IN TERMS OF USG INTEREST WOULD SEEM TO HAVE BEEN ESSENTIALLY ACHIEVED: TWO FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN FOREWARNED OF A POSSIBLE STORY WHICH, ALTHOUGH (AS WE HAVE CAUTIONED YARG FROM OUTSET) IN ALL PROBABILITY ENTIRELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION, WOULD HAVE CAUSED EMBARRASSMENT AND TENSION HAD IT TAKEN THEM BY SURPRISE. WHILE NOT IN AGREEMENT ON SOVEREIGNTY OF ZUQAR AND OTHER ISLANDS, THEY ARE IN FRIENDLY CONTACT WITH ONE ANOTHER TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO THEIR RELATIONS. USG HAS DISARMED SUSPICION WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN INEVITABLE IN YEMENI MINDS THAT IT LINKED TO OR AWARE OF ALLEGED ISRAELI ACTIVITY, THUS PROTECTING OUR OWN RELATIONS. CRAWFORD UNQUOTE ROGERS

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE044840
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: JCRAIG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730325/aaaahmky.tel
Line Count: 102
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 ADDIS ABABA 2650
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Sep-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <03-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971119
Subject: ALLEGED ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ZUQAR ISLAND RDF: ADDIS ABABA 2650 (NOTAL)
TAGS: PBOR, ET, IS, YE
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005